

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 01457 140925Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /090 W

-----140935Z 031637 /15

R 111513Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2003

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON 0793

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PRETRIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 1457

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, RH

UBJ: SITHOLE PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: ABIDJAN 1382 (NOTAL)

1. ZIMBABWEAN LEADER MDABANINGI SITHOLE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN ABIDJAN FEBRUARY 10. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF EVENT IN FRATERNITE MATIN REPRESENTS FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SITHOLE VISIT ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN IN IVORY COAST SINCE BEGINNING OF WEEK (REFTEL). SITHOLE HAS NOT RPT NOT CONTACTED EMBASSY TO DATE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 01457 140925Z

2. SITHOLE SAID HE HAD ALREADY MET WITH CHIEFS OF STATE OF SENEGAL, GAMBIA, SIERRA LEONE, LIBERIA, GUINEA, AND GHANA AND THAT HE PLANNED TO MEET WITH AFRICAN LEADERS IN OTHER STATES ON HIS CURRENT TRIP TO WARN THEM OF THE SERIOUS DANGERS INHERENT IN THE RECENT DECISION OF THE FIVE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS TO ACCORD (EXCLUSIVE) SUPPORT TO THE NKOMO-MUGABE PATRIOTIC

FRONT. SITHOLE SAID THE DECISION WOULD ONLY PROVOKE OPPOSITION AND DIVISION SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH OCCURRED IN ANGOLA. HE SAID IT WAS SOLEY UP TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO CHOOSE THEIR LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT THE CHIEFS OF STATE HE HAD ENCOUNTERED ON HIS VISIT RECOGNIZED THIS PRINCIPLE. SITHOLE SAID THAT ZIMBABWE WELCOMED THE SUPPORT OF AFRIICANP COUNTRIES IN THE FIGHT FOR LIBERATION BUT THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO MIX IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT RECENT EVENTS IN THE AREA SUCH AS THE ALLEGED KIDNAPPING OF 400 SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE MURDER OF SEVEN MISSIONARIES, SITHOLE SAID THE SMITH REGIME HAD COMMITTED THE WORST ATROCITIES WHICH WERE THEN LAID ON THE BACKS OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF SUCH ACTS.

4. COMMENTING ON THE ROLE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND SOUTH AFRICA, SITHOLE SAID ENGLAND'S WEAKNESS LEFT THE INITIATIVE TO SMITH WHILE SOUTH AFRICA WOULD ALWAYS SUPPORT THE WHITE REGIME. SITHOLE SAID THE ONLY OPTION REMAINING WAS TO INTENSIFY THE ARMED STRUGGLE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAING THERE WOULD NONETHELSS BE A PLACE FOR THE WHITES IN A FREE AND NON-RACIAL ZIMBABWE. STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, RECOGNITION, VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES, NATIONALISTS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770051-0870
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770252/aaaabtls.tel
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20041005
Subject: PRESS CONFERENCES
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, IV, RH, (SITHOLE, NDABANANGI)
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Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bd02f6c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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